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Message Text

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21
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /020 W
---------- 101430
R 220935Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBSSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 442
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

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EO 11652 NA
TAGS PFOR SCUL CH TW
SUBJECT: CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL ON CHINA QUESTION AT OLYMPICS

1. A JULY 21 CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL ENTITLED "SAVING THE OLYMPICS" SUGGESTS THAT THE ROC WOULD ACCEPT A TWO-CHINA APPROACH FOR FUTURE OLYMPICS. ACCORDING TO THE EDITORIAL, "WE DO NOT FAVOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS IN THE OLYMPICS...BUT WE DO NOT SAY THAT THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS MUST BE BARRED SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO COMPETE."

2. THE EDITORIAL'S EXPLANATION OF WHAT THE ROC REPRESENTS , AT LEAST IN TERMS OF SPORTING EVENTS, ALSO APPEARS TO DEVIATE FROM THE TRADITIONAL GROC VIEW. "AS FAR AS SPORTS IS CONCERNED," THE EDITORIAL STATED, "THE MEMBERS OF OUR OLYMPIC TEAM REPRESENT THE CHINESE MAINLAND ONLY SO FAR AS THEY ARE FROM MANILAND PRO-VINCES RATHER THAN TAIWAN. MOST OF OUR ATHLETES ARE FROM TAIWAN AND REPRESENT THE ROC. THIS IS A STATEMENT OF FACT AND NOT OF POLITICS."

3. COMMENT: IT IS LIKELY THAT THE STATEMENTS QUOTED ABOVE ARE REFLECTIVE MORE OF THE GLIB STYLE OF CHINA NEWS EDITORIALS DESIGNED TO IMPRESS FOREIGNERS WITH THE REASONABLENESS OF ROC POSITIONS RATHER THAN OF ANY CHANE IN ROC POLICY ON THIS QUESTION. NONETHELESS, SINCE CHINA NEWS EDIORIALS FREQUENTLY REFLECT THE THINKING OF SOME ELEMENTS IN THE MINISTRY OF
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE EDITORIAL MAY SUGGEST THAT AT LEAST SOME IN

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THAT MINISTRY FAVOR A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO THE QUESTION OF CHINESE REPRESENTATION, AT LEAST IN THE AREA OF SPORTS. AS OCCASIONS ARISE, WE WILL SEEK TO ASCERTAIN THE REACTIONS OF THOSE IN MOFA TO THIS EDITORIAL.
UNGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, OLYMPIC GAMES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TAIPEI04958
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760282-0109
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760731/aaaabaqz.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL ON CHINA QUESTION AT OLYMPICS
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CH, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006